AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising:

voice recognition means for recognizing a voice; and

control means for controlling said voice recognition means in accordance with ~~the~~ a growth state of said robot.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot~~control means controls said voice recognition means in accordance with the state of the robot in terms of the growth, emotion, or instinct~~.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means changes the recognition accuracy of said voice recognition means in accordance with the growth state of said robot.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said voice recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a dictionary in which words to be recognized in voice recognition are described; and

said control means controls said voice recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and voice recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said voice recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a plurality of dictionaries in which words to be recognized in voice recognition are described such that the words to be recognized are divided into groups and the respective groups of words are stored in different dictionaries; and

said control means controls said voice recognition means such that the words described in the respective dictionaries are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and voice recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said voice recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a dictionary in which words to be recognized in voice recognition are described such that other words are linked to said words to be recognized; and

said control means controls said voice recognition means such that another word linked to a word, which is included in the dictionary and which is obtained as a voice recognition result, is output as a final voice recognition word depending upon the growth state of the robot.

Claim 7. (original) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein words to be recognized in voice recognition are described in said dictionary such that said words are linked to other acoustically or semantically similar words.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said voice recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a dictionary in which words to be recognized in voice recognition are described; and

said control means controls the maximum number of words allowed to be described in said dictionary, in accordance with the growth state of said robot.

Claim 9. (original) A voice recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said robot performs a predetermined action in accordance with the voice recognition result output by said voice recognition means.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A voice recognition method for a voice recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising the steps of:

recognizing a voice; and

controlling said voice recognition step in accordance with ~~the~~ a growth state of said robot.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A storage medium on which a program to be executed by a computer to make a robot perform voice recognition is stored, said program comprising the steps of:

recognizing a voice; and

controlling said voice recognition step in accordance with ~~the~~ a growth state of said robot.